Free rice to flood affected states

4141. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have allocated rice to some flood affected States free of cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) what other free assistance is being extended by the Central Government to the flood affected States during the year 2001-02?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have so far allocated 5000 tonnes of rice free of cost to Kerala for Food for Programme in rain/flood affected areas.

(c) Free assistance was provided by Government of India in rescue and relief operation air-dropping of relief materials, food packets and supply of medicine.

Changes in public distribution system

4142. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission has suggested changes in the overall Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to prevent black marketing of grains meant for below poverty line population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has explored various approaches of dealing with PDS during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. However, the Approach paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council and has not been finalised.

(c) The Government of India has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in the supervision and monitoring of the Public Distribution System, especially at the Fair Price Shop level, as a measure of social audit. It is expected that the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution System including Antyodaya Anna Yojana at the grass roots level will make the System transparent and accountable and help check diversion of PDS commodities to a great extent.

Production of sugar

4143. SHRI K.M. KHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange spent on account of import of sugar during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total production of sugar during the last three years and what is the expected production of this year; and

(c) the total consumption of sugar during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The import of sugar is allowed under Open General Licence (OGL) since March, 1994 and as such, various private parties have imported sugar as per their own commercial judgement. The details relating to foreign exchange spent on import of sugar are not available with the Government. As per DGCI&S, Kolkata, the import of sugar during the three financial years and its value in Rs./crores are as under :—

Financial Year	Quantity (In MTs)	CIF Value Rs./crores
1998-99	900471	1111.22
1999-2000	1181183	1110.79
2000-2001	30612(P)	31.36(P)

(P) = Provisional